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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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HARVESTING AND FEEDING OATS

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Oats are widely grown but about 85 percent of the crop in 1948 was grown in the Corn Belt and the Lake and the Plains States. Annual estimates are not available of the percentage of the crop threshed or combined and used on the farm, or sold as unthreshed oats. But census reports for 1945 and for earlier years show the acreages threshed or combined and cut when ripe or nearly ripe and fed unthreshed, by States, for the year preceding the taking of the census.

On the basis of information obtained from the 1945 census it is probable that about 94 percent of the oats grown in 1948 were threshed or combined (table 1).

In the major oat-producing States practically all of the crop is threshed. In the Southeastern and the Appalachian States about half of the 1948 crop that was used on the farm was fed or sold as unthreshed oats. Of the total crop, about 25 percent was sold and the remainder was used for feed and seed on the farms where grown. It is probable that about 70 percent of the total crop, or more than 1,040,000,000 bushels were used on farms where grown as threshed or combined oats, mostly as feed. In February 1949 material was obtained from about 11,000 voluntary crop reporters on the quantity of oats threshed or combined on individual farms, in 1948, and the quantities that were or would be fed on their farms as whole and as crushed or ground oats.

One of the purposes of this study was to learn about the method of feeding threshed or combined oats. These reports show that about 57 percent of the threshed oats fed on farms were crushed or ground (table 2). In the Lake States, and in North Dakota, Indiana, and Ohio, a relatively high percentage of the threshed oats used on farms was crushed or ground as were more than half of the threshed oats fed on farms in most of the Mountain, Pacific, and Northeastern States.

In most of the Southern States, the bulk of the threshed oats were fed without grinding or crushing, as was a considerable part of the oats fed on farms in the western Corn Belt and in the central and southern Plains.

Table 1.- Oats: Production for grain, harvest methods, and disposition, State groups, 1948

State groups	:	:	Percentage of		Percentage of 1948 crop		
	:	:	oats 1/		:	Used on farm where	
	:Production:	Combined :	Cut ripe :	Sold :	grown as -		
	:	:	or : and fed :	:	Combined or :	Unthreshed	
:	:	threshed :	unthreshed:	:	threshed oats:	oats	
	:1,000 bus.	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	
Northeast	: 65,550	91	9	10	81	9	
Corn Belt	: 614,102	96	4	29	68	3	
Lake States	: 389,158	99	1	19	80	1	
Great Plains	: 263,564	96	4	28	69	3	
Appalachian	: 23,398	52	48	20	42	38	
Southeast	: 32,021	45	55	32	31	37	
Delta	: 23,771	81	19	22	63	15	
Okla- Texas	: 30,848	84	16	26	62	12	
Mountain	: 31,555	84	16	28	60	12	
Pacific	: 19,337	90	10	54	41	5	
United States	:1,493,304	94	6	25	70	5	

1/ These estimates were largely developed from reports of the 1945 agricultural census. These reports show, for each State, the acres of oats in 1944 that were combined, threshed, or cut in a ripened condition and fed unthreshed.

Table 2.- Oats: Percentage of crop threshed and oats fed on farms as whole oats and as crushed or ground oats, by States, 1948

State groups	Production of oats for grain			Percentage of threshed or combined oats fed on farms as	
	1948				
	Average	Combined or			
	1938-1947: Production	thresheds oats:	used on farms:	Whole	Crushed
		where grown		oats	or
		1/			ground
	1,000 bus.	1,000 bus.	1,000 bus.	Percent	Percent
New England	5,490	5,134		46	54
New York	23,767	28,320		30	70
New Jersey	1,299	1,435		33	67
Pennsylvania	25,294	29,146		35	65
Delaware	124	175		55	45
Maryland	1,152	1,340		55	45
Northeast	57,126	65,550	53,300	34	66
Ohio	40,495	54,090		40	60
Indiana	42,807	56,459		38	62
Illinois	130,320	181,091		48	52
Iowa	183,472	273,870		53	47
Missouri	45,128	48,592		56	44
Corn Belt	442,222	614,102	419,700	49	51
Michigan	49,818	56,672		26	74
Wisconsin	103,365	126,148		20	80
Minnesota	163,830	206,338		34	66
Lake States	317,013	389,158	312,500	28	72
North Dakota	61,270	60,256		30	70
South Dakota	77,963	104,252		55	45
Nebraska	53,767	72,744		70	30
Kansas	36,391	26,312		55	45
Great Plains	229,391	263,564	181,100	54	46
West Virginia	1,772	1,740		68	32
Kentucky	1,940	2,754		50	50
Tennessee	4,069	6,048		40	60
Virginia	3,200	4,891		38	62
North Carolina	8,226	7,965		58	42
Appalachian	19,207	23,398	9,700	48	52
South Carolina	15,462	12,144		75	25
Georgia	13,097	13,728		75	25
Florida	401	399		75	25
Alabama	4,500	5,750		70	30
Southeast	33,460	32,021	9,950	74	26

- Continued -

Table 2.- Oats: Percentage of crop threshed and oats fed on farms as whole oats and as crushed or ground oats, by States, 1948 - Cont'd.

State groups	Production of oats for grain			Percentage of threshed or combined oats fed on farms as	
	1948				
	Average	Combined or	Production:	Whole	Crushed
	1938-1947	thresheds:	where grown	oats	or
		used on farms:	1/		ground
	<u>1,000 bus.</u>	<u>1,000 bus.</u>	<u>1,000 bus.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Mississippi	9,708	10,989		85	15
Louisiana	2,919	3,584		75	25
Arkansas	7,138	9,198		77	23
Delta	19,765	23,771	14,900	81	19
Oklahoma	27,370	16,608		50	50
Texas	33,977	14,240		56	44
Okla.-Texas	61,347	30,848	19,000	52	48
Montana	12,502	11,826		44	56
Idaho	7,326	6,300		33	67
Wyoming	3,981	3,960		44	56
Colorado	5,684	6,208		42	58
New Mexico	884	798		35	65
Arizona	268	330		45	55
Utah	1,848	1,764		50	50
Nevada	291	369		50	50
Mountain	32,784	31,555	18,900	42	58
Washington	7,480	6,290		30	70
Oregon	9,508	7,497		25	75
California	4,781	5,550		68	32
Pacific	21,769	19,337	8,000	32	68
United States	1,234,084	1,493,304	1,047,050	43	57

1/ Used as weights in developing the State groups and United States averages of this report. Some of the oats were used for seed but the great bulk was used for feed.

